

New Program Bumps TRICARE Prime Remote Waived Charges

Active duty family members who lived with their sponsors in locations where military medicine wasn't readily available often took advantage of DoD's interim "waived charges" benefit. The benefit often allowed these beneficiaries to forgo cost shares, co-payments and deductibles.

This waived charges benefit ends Aug. 31, 2002, and will be replaced by the TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members (TPRADFM) program, which begins Sept. 1, 2002.

TPRADFM is a new benefit authorized under the National Defense Authorization Act. The TPRADFM program replaces the interim benefit, reduces or eliminates out-of-pocket cost, and brings equity of the TRICARE Prime benefit to active duty family members who reside with their sponsors in remote locations.

To take advantage of the TPRADFM benefit, active duty sponsors and family members must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). To verify eligibility in DEERS, sponsors and family members may contact or visit a military identification card issuing facility. A list of military facilities is available on-line at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl. They also may contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll-free at 1-800-538-9552.

Additional information on the TPRADFM program is available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/remote. Sponsors and active duty family members also may contact the Worldwide TRICARE Information Center toll-free at 1-877-DOD-CARE (1-877-363-2273).

For more information about TRICARE, go to
www.tricareonline.com.



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